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NO. 3450 P. 1



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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

*official
B.H.*

DATE: May 24, 2001

TO: Examiner Sisson

In RE: Application of G. Gundling, et al.
Application No. 09/492,213
METHOD OF PROCESSING A SAMPLE CONTAINING AT LEAST ONE
BIOLOGICAL ELEMENT
Group Art No.: 1655
Attorney Docket: 6416.US.P1

FAX NUMBER: (703) 746-5020

FROM: David J. Schodin
Agent for Applicants

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 20

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: G. Gundling, et al.

Group Art No.: 1655

Application No.: 09/492,213

Examiner: B. Sisson

Filed: January 27, 2000

Title: METHOD OF PROCESSING A
SAMPLE CONTAINING AT
LEAST ONE BIOLOGICAL
ELEMENT

I hereby certify that this paper (along
with any paper referred to as being
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Date of transmission: May 24, 2001

David J. Schodin *May 24, 2001*
David J. Schodin Date

Case No.: 6416.US.P1

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified
above entitled METHOD OF PROCESSING A SAMPLE CONTAINING AT LEAST
ONE BIOLOGICAL ELEMENT are the following:

1. Preliminary Amendment
2. Attachment to the Preliminary Amendment Dated May 24, 2001.

Six independent claims are pending, for which applicants
have previously paid for six. Sixteen total claims are pending,
for which applicants have previously paid for twenty.
Accordingly, no fee is required. The Commissioner is hereby
authorized, however, to charge any additional fees required under
37 C.F.R. § 1.16, as well as any patent application processing
fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 associated with this communication

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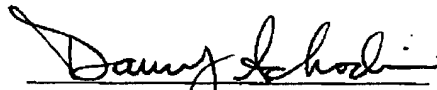
Application No. 09/492,213

6416.US.P1

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for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account
No. 01-0025.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Gundling, et al.



David J. Schodin

Registration No. 41,294

Agent for Applicants

Date: February 05, 2001

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PATENT

12/6
B. Webb
6/5/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: G. Gundling, et al.

Group Art No.: 1655

Application No.: 09/492,213

Examiner: B. Sisson

Filed: January 27, 2000

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of Examiner Sisson, at facsimile number
(703) 746-5020 on May 24, 2001.

Case No.: 6416.US.P1

David J. Schodin May 24, 2001
David J. Schodin Date

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the continued examination of the subject application, please enter the
following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

In the title: /

Please delete the title and insert therefor --A METHOD OF REDUCING
CONTAMINATION IN AN ASSAY VESSEL--.

In the claims: / /

Please cancel claims 3 and 6 without prejudice, and enter the following claims thereby
amending the pending claims by replacement and adding new claims 7-16. A separate paper